

**Norwich Bulletin and Courier.**

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Norwich, Wednesday, Dec. 14, 1910.

**SHIFTLESS BUSINESS METHODS.**

The committee of one hundred created to look into the affairs of New Haven county after the unfortunate full fire at which several brave firemen lost their lives, reported Monday, exonerating the county commissioners from all blame with reference to that accident, but they find that the business of the county has been conducted in a very unbusiness-like way and that the conduct of county affairs was far from being commendable.

In fact, the committee recommended that two of the county commissioners be dropped at the expiration of their term and that more proficient men be appointed in their places.

Such an adverse report ought to settle the future fate of the men who and their official term branded for inefficiency and it would be surprising if the people elected them instead of the legislature, but some doubt is being expressed whether the legislature will view the matter in the same light the committee does.

It seems to The Bulletin that the men who control these offices will not be blind to complaints so methodically made, and heavily backed. There is nothing to be gained by ignoring the report of such a committee, and no one realizes this more than the men who by ability and tact command the confidence and popular support of the people.

The plea that the condemned system has been the regular system for years, and that these men are no worse than their predecessors, is rather a weak defense and should not bear much weight in the premises.

**DO NOT FORGET THE LETTER CARRIERS.**

From now until Christmas the letter carriers will be having an increasing burden and that is why those who have goods to mail should try to avoid the rush, and those who regard him as a friend as well as a public servant should hinder him as little as possible.

The Newburyport News is endorsing what it says is "the privilege of the public to assist these men so far as is in their power. Do not keep them waiting. The government has recently urged that all householders should place letter boxes on their houses or stoops in the doors so that these men should not lose time waiting, and find the time in which they must carry a heavy load increasing. And yet there has not been such a very general response to this request. Christmas time is the season when the loads of the mail men become heaviest of all. A request has been made that so far as possible Christmas matter be mailed early, and so relieve the congestion of matter and the strain of the employees. The average individual knows how generally this request has been heeded.

"Anyway, this is the Christmas season. Do not forget to have a spirit of good will and helpfulness towards your mail man."

**TEN YEARS OF DROUGHT.**

All New England has gone dry and the country as well as the cities are suffering from the severest drought in the history of the country, and while conditions nowhere are first-class, there is no city in all New England that is facing such a serious water problem as Norwich is today.

Commenting upon present conditions in the vicinity of Boston, The Transcript of that city says:

"The drought is not merely last year and the year before that have dropped below the normal, but the desiccating process has been going on for a decade. Before 1900 the average annual rainfall was 42.27 inches. Since that time up to a year ago this average has fallen so that the average figures for the decade were 42.6 inches, or nearly four inches below the normal, which in ten years would mean nearly an entire year's deficiency. This, added to the present year's strain upon our reduced moisture resources very readily accounts for the acuteness of the winter drought."

The history of rainfalls shows that during the time records have been kept that the annual rainfall varies from 27 inches to 60 inches a year, which gives an average or normal rainfall of 46 or 47 inches; but there is no record of an average ten years' shortage which equals 2 1/2 feet on the level all over New England. What an ocean of water that represents!

The hope now is that 1911 may change the tide and that the January thaw may not only give relief but be sufficient in volume to strengthen our faith that better days are to come.

**RATES RAISED 500 PER CENT.**

The fraternal insurance association of the Knights of Pythias has surprised its policyholders by the biggest advance in premiums that was ever made by such an association, and the counsel for one of the members has called on the attorney general of New York state to cancel the certificate which permits the association to do business in that state and asks that a receiver be appointed.

With the letter to the attorney general, Lawyer Buckley sent copies of communications from the central organization to a client of his, Thomas Barber, of 103 Rogers avenue, Brooklyn. It is on information as to the business of the order given in these letters that the lawyer bases his request for the appointment of a receiver.

Thomas Barber has been paying an assessment averaging \$5.20 a month on a \$2,000 insurance policy issued to him in 1886. One of the letters from the Supreme lodge, dated November 22, 1910, informs him that a by-law has been passed by virtue of which the members of the fourth class in the insurance department, to which Mr. Barber belongs, were to pay an assessment of \$24.00 a month after January 1 next for a continuance of the insurance under their policies. The lawyer tells the attorney general that this demand will not be complied with,

and that his client does not recognize the right of the order to exact such a by-law.

The letter to Mr. Barber is on stationery marked "Supreme Government Knights of Pythias, Calais, Me.," and is signed by George M. Hanson, supreme chancellor. It is addressed "To Members of the Fourth Class, Insurance Department."

"Bringing the statement down to date," it says, "the number of members of the fourth class on October 31, 1910, was 10,822, carrying insurance in the amount of \$20,667,500. The amount in the mortality fund of the fourth class on October 31 was \$615,568. Thus it was apparent to the members of the Supreme lodge and will be apparent to you, I think, that if steps had not been taken to increase the contributions of members of this class, its funds would be exhausted in a very few months."

The Knights of Pythias is one of the largest of the fraternal orders, having lodges in every state in the union. It has other activities besides the writing of life insurance. An advance gives its total membership January 1 last as 703,894, while New York state had 24,519, according to the same figures. Its governing board is composed of men from states widely scattered.

There are two classes of members who take out insurance in the organization, the fourth and fifth classes. The present action concerns only the fourth class. Nothing that the Supreme lodge has said affects the solvency of the fifth class policies, which are understood to have an entirely distinct fund.

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**THANKS TO STATE OF CONNECTICUT.**

We have always thought well of our state highway commissioner, James H. MacDonald, but perhaps it is in respect to him as it was with the prophet of old—he is not without (commensurate) honor save in his own country. The following resolution, presented at the last session of the seventh annual convention of the American Road Builders' association, at Indianapolis, on Friday, December 3, was unanimously passed:

"Whereas, We, the representatives of a great number of states assembled in the greatest good roads convention ever held in this country, recognize the great help that has been rendered to the cause by Hon. James H. MacDonald, president of the association, therefore, be it

"Resolved, That we hereby thank him personally for his work and also thank the state of Connecticut for lending us her highway commissioner."

These expert road builders know a good and competent man when they see him, and their acquaintance with Mr. MacDonald has served to satisfy them that he comes close to being the ideal man in his special field of public work.—Bridgeport Standard.

The complaints made against Highway Commissioner MacDonald are not for incompetence but because his conscientious convictions in relation to the state's policy conflict with the greed of private interests. Commissioner MacDonald can read his title clear and commend the support of any honest man in the very presence of his foes. The complaint of those who want a double-headed good roads department is that he tries to do too much!

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

The ten days before Christmas beat any ten days before election that have ever yet been on the boards.

Taft's message has stood the sharpest scrutiny, and is now pronounced by the experts as good politics.

Here is the Boston Record publicly declaring that there are ignoramuses in congress as well as elsewhere.

The Spokane 100,000 club is credited with having made good. The population is 4,000 better than the boosters' aid.

Whatever else genius has attempted there is nothing to show that it ever tried to nurse a bank account on the bottle!

Secretary Wilson seems to think that the middlemen, like the dogs in Turkey, are too numerous to be quietly endured.

The worst of it is to wake up on New Year's morning and find that the coal bill has arrived, to say nothing of more recent claims.

Happy thought for today: The person who is looking upon a world of misery cannot get a very cheery conception of Santa Claus.

The war on the housefly last season did not exterminate the Christmas fly, which is hovering around now to get drunk on the Christmas pudding sauce.

The Jersey politicians appear to be surprised to find out that Woodrow Wilson, the new governor, really meant what he said during the campaign.

It is calculated that the forty-two million new shelving very Congressional library at Washington will meet every requirement of growth for two years.

It is strange that any salaried mayor should think that he is greater than his employers. Superintendents of street private corporations never have such a bug.

The shopper who said she was just pricing things so that she would know what things cost that were given to her was not following an exclusive pursuit.

It is not likely that we shall hear of Governor Baldwin's assuming an I-am-the-state air, for he recognizes that the creature cannot be greater than its creator.

The man in Tacoma who buys a drink for a friend violates a city ordinance and can be held to answer. New England must see there is something far ahead of her.

Rockland and Abington, paraphrasing an old proverb, says a Boston paper, maintains that it is best to be on with the new water works before one is off with the old.

Notice is given that Brigham Young's seventh widow is dead. A Boston humorist thinks that the country should not lament, since there are a lot more of them in the card catalogue.

The Rutland News, in its disgust over Ambassador Reid's description of Lincoln at a recent assembly of English students, says: "The English atmosphere dwarts small minds of the American type."

**THE BULLETIN'S DAILY STORY**

**IN UTOPIA**

"I don't know what you'll say about it, Edward," said young Mrs. Jimmy, in a hesitating way, as she looked down at the letter from her mother, in which she says she's coming to make us a visit of indefinite duration."

"What shall I say about it, my dear Gertrude?" replied her husband, with a shrug.

"What greater happiness could any man ask than a prolonged visit from his mother-in-law? If you'll excuse me, I'll go and see the minute you received that communication from your admirable parent."

"My married life has been one song without a discordant note, and yet I have felt all the time that something was lacking to round out our happiness. I didn't know what it was. But now I realize it was the presence of your mother in our vine-covered cottage. Telegraph her at once and let her know we are all here in coming and assure her that she must not think of leaving our humble abode for at least five years."

"How good you are!" cried Mrs. Jimmy. "I was really afraid to tell you of my mother's plans."

"That's because you've been reading too many of those foolish comic papers which make jests of the most solemn and sacred things. I cannot imagine a man who does not adore his mother-in-law. Have you any other trouble on your mind, my precious Gertrude?"

"The bill came from the milliner last evening and I have hesitated to show it to you, the amount is so much larger than I thought it would be. I'm afraid you'll think me extravagant, but you see—"

"No excuses or explanations, my angel! Things have indeed come to a pretty pass if a wife must account to her husband for the cost of her wardrobe. Her beautiful person! You have an entirely wrong conception of the character of a husband, my dear, doubtless you are evading the matter. Tell me, which is too often found in our

circulating libraries. In order to earn enough to keep soul and body together these wretched comic writers do not hesitate to invade the home and distort the motives of husbands or ridicule the family altar. I assure you that the miserly miser's bill is in the better pleased I'll be. It would drive all the sunshine from my life if I thought that your new hat was no better inferior to any hat in this town. I'll sign a check and you may bill it out to suit yourself."

"Oh, Edward, what a scoundrel you are! I'm sure there are no other husbands like you!"

"Alas, I am the least worthy of my sex! Your mind has been poisoned by reading the hideous problem novels which pretend to depict domestic unhappiness, but only misrepresent everything they touch. Now, what else can I do for you, beloved?"

"I am ashamed to mention such a thing, Edward, but for several days I have been trying to find a man who would put up a stove in the north bedroom, and could find none. I know how men hate such work and—"

"How do you know it, sunshine of my soul? In these days of atrocious colored supplements and misleading statements young women gain false ideas of life. If there is any better sport of which I am passionately fond it is putting up stoves. And yet in your ignorance—an ignorance fostered by editorial lies—you would innocently rob your husband of an innocent and refreshing diversion which is prized by all good men."

"I can overlook and forgive much in a young woman whose worldly experience is small, but I doubt whether I could ever have the same affection for you, Gertrude Elizabeth, had you brought a stranger into the house to put up the stove! And now I must go to work. Is there any ribbon you would like me to match that the lady would care to buy?"

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**A Brilliant Record.**

Mr. Editor: In an address to the city meeting Mayor Thayer said he had something up his sleeve, and that something was for the best interest of the city. Now, the editor said that he knew nothing about the water question, but had to rely on information of engineers in that line. Did he take the advice of the city engineer?

Let us look back. The board of water commissioners were advised to go to Stony Brook when they found upon investigation by competent engineers that the water was not fit for use on account of excessive cost. Now, because our mayor's pet scheme was turned down, what did he do? He says: "We cannot afford to go to Stony Brook, we must go to Fairview and raise the dam, and it will settle the water question for the next twenty-five years, and the people follow."

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ing corporations to make to the local authorities as to the federal authorities full returns regarding their business, it will be possible to reduce the present taxes on the poorer men's property and at the same time add largely to the public revenue.—Providence Tribune.

**Expensive Campaigning.**

It cost Mr. Lake nearly \$4000 to procure the nomination for governor which he did not get. It cost Mr. Goodwin over \$10,000 to make his longer but equally unsuccessful campaign. The preliminary expenditures of the rivals were along these practically the same. Both paid heavily for newspaper advertising, campaign buttons, telephones, stenography, postage and banners. But in each case the principal investment was in "entertainment." Mr. Lake's headquarters cost him \$177.25. Mr. Goodwin's headquarters cost \$1,332.14. Each candidate more than equalled his opponent in the purchase of cigars and other refreshments. Thirty-four "entertainments" at the Hotel Garder cost Mr. Lake \$1,494 exclusive of several hands which he hired from time to time at an expense of \$150. Mr. Goodwin's carefully itemized list of purchases, running down to such minutiae as "Cigars \$4.45" are about the same. Obviously each man devoted more thought to the winning of the fellowmen's esteem through the medi-

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him of tobacco, melody and sandwiches that he did to securing the nomination of his views on the public utility bill, the employer's liability act, the removal of the \$4,000 death limit and the right against subordination, although these were solemnly pronounced the great lacuna of the day. It does not appear from the sworn statements that any improper use of money was made on either side. Food, medicine and amusement are the legal accompaniments of modern statecraft. But all the same we repeat that a candidate didn't have to be so entertaining to run for the presidency in 1908 as he does to run for the governorship of Connecticut today. We might have joined the services of Abraham Lincoln.

**One Question Enough.**

When a noted Irish orator was in America a few years ago he appeared at a meeting in St. Louis and delivered an address on the subject of Home Rule for Ireland. There were 6,000 of his countrymen in the audience. At the close of his remarks the chairman asked:

"Would any one like to ask the speaker a question?"

A man in the rear of the hall who was quite evidently under the influence of liquor, arose and said:

"Will the gentleman tell us if there is any reason why the Irish should not be wiped from the face of the earth?"

Immediately pandemonium reigned. The speaker was attacked from every quarter. Calls of "Down with him!" "Let me at him!" came from all directions. Finally he was rescued by the policeman and torn and bleeding and in an unconscious condition was placed in an ambulance which had been called. Order was in a measure restored. While the audience could still hear the clatter of the ambulance and the sound of the gong as it conveyed its burden to the hospital, the chairman stepped forward and asked:

"Would anybody like to ask another question?"

—National Monthly.

**The Famous Hen Dead.**

Maine's famous black hen, which laid 4,000 eggs, dropped chicks and never was hatched, is dead. The Maine republican newspapers seem to regard this as the first of a series of calamities naturally to be expected in the train of the democratic victory.

**POLI'S**

Every Afternoon at 2.15. Every Night at 8.45.

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